

minute should we wait to pass the payroll tax extension, unemployment extension, and the ability of our seniors to see their doctors with the Medicare fix for our doctors.

What we say to our soldiers by welcoming them home is all in our acts and our deeds, how we treat their relatives, their friends, and extended family members and community. It's time for Congress to wait not one minute to extend the American Dream to all and provide this benefit to those who are in need.

#### STOP CUTS IN PUBLIC SPENDING

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, this is a wealthy country. Corporate profits are at record highs. By the end of last year, the private sector was expanding at a healthy 4.5 percent annualized pace. But why, then, wasn't economic growth in the most recent quarter even better than the 2.8 percent that the Commerce Department reported last week? As David Leonhardt of *The New York Times* explains, the answer is because the economy is the combination of the private and public sectors. The public sector has been shrinking for the last 1½ years because of cuts in State and local governments and some Federal cuts, especially to the military.

In the fourth-quarter government shrank at an annual rate of 4.5 percent. Over the last 2 years, the private sector grew at an average annual rate of 3.2 percent while the government shrank at an annual rate of 1.4, and the combined result was that economic growth was 2.3%. That's a lot of numbers. But the fact is economic growth and employment growth would have been significantly stronger over the last 2 years without those government cuts.

And that's why we shouldn't be continuing to discourage Federal employment by continuing to freeze their pay, as the majority wants to do today. And it's why we shouldn't be letting unemployment benefits expire for 6 million people. It's why we should let the Bush tax cuts expire. It's a far better alternative than cutting trillions of dollars more in public spending.

#### IS GOVERNMENT REALLY THE SOURCE OF ALL OUR PROBLEMS?

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. You know, we've heard for many years now from the other side the notion that government is the source of all of our problems, government never does anything right, it ought to stop regulating and get out of the way of a very free and open society.

Well, the authors of a new book called "Gardens of Democracy" have a

compelling and undeniable point to make. They write: "There is not a stable, prosperous society on Earth without activist government, extensive regulation, and high, progressive taxation. If less were always better, then the least regulated economies would be the most successful economies. The opposite is true. If minimalist government worked, Somalia would be rich, stable and secure, and Canada would be a hellhole; Afghanistan would be a coveted destination, and Denmark would be like a leper colony."

Now, to be fair, the authors say that our government is often too slow to react, it has all the answers, and it needs to be more flexible and more effective. We all agree with that. What we need to do is find a way to create a government that is efficient, that sets the right direction for our country, and then lets the innovative spirit of this country take hold and find the answers to our problems.

#### GETTING AMERICA BACK TO WORK

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RANGEL. Recently, the President of the United States indicated that he will be sending legislation to the Congress in order to get America back to work. He also indicated that he would use the powers of the executive branch where there was no cooperation from the Congress in what he was trying to do. There's an old African saying, that is, when two elephants fight, only the grass gets hurt. I would certainly hope that the leadership in the House and the Senate take the President up on some of the offers that he has made to educate our young people, to make certain that those people that are about to lose their homes are able to keep them, and to see that we get the type of incentives from manufacturers to have jobs here rather than overseas.

I am certain that those people who watched the Republican debates were missing one thing, and that is jobs. America wants to get back to work. It wants its dignity, it wants its kids to be able to get an education, and it wants to restore the middle class.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 658, FAA REAUTHORIZATION AND REFORM ACT OF 2012

Mr. MICA submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 658) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, to streamline programs, create efficiencies, reduce waste, and improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 112-381)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amend-

ment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 658), to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, to streamline programs, create efficiencies, reduce waste, and improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Amendments to title 49, United States Code.

Sec. 3. Effective date.

#### TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS

##### Subtitle A—Funding of FAA Programs

Sec. 101. Airport planning and development and noise compatibility planning and programs.

Sec. 102. Air navigation facilities and equipment.

Sec. 103. FAA operations.

Sec. 104. Funding for aviation programs.

Sec. 105. Delineation of Next Generation Air Transportation System projects.

##### Subtitle B—Passenger Facility Charges

Sec. 111. Passenger facility charges.

Sec. 112. GAO study of alternative means of collecting PFCs.

Sec. 113. Qualifications-based selection.

##### Subtitle C—Fees for FAA Services

Sec. 121. Update on overflights.

Sec. 122. Registration fees.

##### Subtitle D—Airport Improvement Program Modifications

Sec. 131. Airport master plans.

Sec. 132. AIP definitions.

Sec. 133. Recycling plans for airports.

Sec. 134. Contents of competition plans.

Sec. 135. Grant assurances.

Sec. 136. Agreements granting through-the-fence access to general aviation airports.

Sec. 137. Government share of project costs.

Sec. 138. Allowable project costs.

Sec. 139. Veterans' preference.

Sec. 140. Minority and disadvantaged business participation.

Sec. 141. Special apportionment rules.

Sec. 142. United States territories minimum guarantee.

Sec. 143. Reducing apportionments.

Sec. 144. Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau.

Sec. 145. Use of apportioned amounts.

Sec. 146. Designating current and former military airports.

Sec. 147. Contract tower program.

Sec. 148. Resolution of disputes concerning airport fees.

Sec. 149. Sale of private airports to public sponsors.

Sec. 150. Repeal of certain limitations on Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

Sec. 151. Midway Island Airport.

Sec. 152. Miscellaneous amendments.

Sec. 153. Extension of grant authority for compatible land use planning and projects by State and local governments.

Sec. 154. Priority review of construction projects in cold weather States.